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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Chris MARSHALL and Katsuhisa MURAMATSU

Group Art Unit: 2755

Application No.: Rule 53(b) Continuation of 08/879,627 Examiner: Y. Cherubin

Filed: January 7, 2000

Docket No.: JAO 32430A

For: DATA PROCESSING APPARATUS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 3, 10, 11 and 18 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 21 as follows:

1. (Amended) A data processing apparatus that performs, in a predetermined order, one or more processes from among a plurality of processes, on predetermined data, the data processing apparatus comprising:

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storage means for storing a plurality of functions, each function [describing a predetermined process and identifying a next function to be executed after execution of the predetermined process of the function] including one of the plurality of processes and a call-out command that calls out a next one of the plurality of functions;